

Katie McCulley



Katie McCulley has been the Head Coach at Springfield Lutheran High School for 17 years. Coach McCulley has a long history of winning in the sport of volleyball. She took over the reins of a winning Lutheran High program in 2007 after being the assistant coach at SIU-Edwardsville for 2 years. She has amassed 20+ win seasons in 15 of her 17 seasons. She took her team to back-to-back IHSA State 3rd Place finishes in 2010 and 2011. She was honored as the IHSA Coach of the year after their 2011 state appearance. She was the first coach in the central Illinois area to garner such an award.

The Lutheran High Crusaders were back at the state tournament in 2021 claiming 4th place. The amazing part about that squad was that the entire roster was returning for the 2022 season! That year's version of Lutheran Crusader Volleyball was primed for success after a final four finish. This meant that the expectations followed in the same way. Every game they played that season, meant that the other team was playing to knock off one of the top teams in the state. This also meant the pressure on these young ladies was at an all-time high.

Coach McCulley was thrown a curveball in the middle of summer and had to change course with the entire team, as they found out their school had suffered mine subsidence (the sinking of the ground). They lost their home court, their school building, and their identity within the community. She was able to quickly pivot while maintaining a high standard of play. She focused on leadership and overcoming adversity, while literally being in depths of adversity the whole season. The winning followed at an incredible rate. The Lady Crusaders set a school record for most wins in a season with 38. They also made history by claiming Runner Up at the IHSA State Finals in 2022, the highest team finish in school history.

Coach McCulley continues to coach the Lady Crusaders. After losing 8 seniors, her goal was to teach this next group what it takes to compete at a high level. After the 2022 season, many coaches would find it a good time to retire. However, Coach McCulley loves teaching the game and wants to share her love of the sport with girls for as long as she is able. She has amassed a record of 444-179 over 17 seasons. She was named back to back Coach of the Year in 2021 and 2022 for the MSM Conference and reached her 400th career win in 2022.

Katie McCulley and her husband have been married for 14 years and have 3 children (11, 10 and 5) and live in New Berlin, IL.

Although her sons love volleyball, their passion is baseball so when Coach McCulley is not on the court, you can find her on a baseball field somewhere in Illinois. Coach McCulley hopes to continue to coach until her daughter who is 5 is able to play so that she can teach her to love the sport that has given her so much happiness.

Coach McCulley would like to thank her husband for being such a supportive spouse. Anyone in the coaching world knows without the support of your loved ones, coaching would be impossible. Thank you to her parents and mother in law for watching the kids over the past 12 years. She loves all her past, present and future players- without them buying into her coaching philosophy she would not have been able to have successful teams. Finally, thank you to her assistants for the endless hours and countless ways of helping throughout the years! Team Love!



